

REMARKS

As above-noted, Claims 1 through 27 were canceled at page 13 of a Preliminary Amendment filed January 28, 2004 (the “Preliminary Amendment”). In addition, Claims 1 through 27 were identified as being canceled at page 19 of the Remarks of that Preliminary Amendment.

In response to the Notice, this Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (“Response”) provides an express statement that Claims 1 through 43 have been canceled. Specifically, Claims 1 through 43 are collectively presented, without the claim text, and with the status identifier “Canceled” inserted in parenthesis.

This Response again shows Claims 44 through 54 as presented in the April 19th Amendment. Specifically, each of Claims 44 through 54 is presented herein with full text and identified with an appropriate status identifier inserted in parenthesis.

It is respectfully submitted that a complete listing of the canceled claims and the claims pending in the application has been presented. It is also respectfully submitted that this Response to Notice is fully responsive to the Notice.

Claim Status

Claims 1 through 43 are canceled.

Claims 44 through 54 remain pending in the application. No new matter has been presented. Claims 44 and 48 are only independent claims pending in the application.

The Examiner is directed to the Remarks section beginning at page 8 of the April 19th Amendment for a discussion of the pending claims and is requested to give such due consideration.

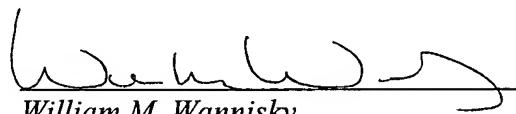
Applicants believe that no fee is necessary. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be deemed necessary in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for that purpose.

Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response or any other issues in this application, he is kindly requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Applicants' attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our New York office at the address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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